

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This claim set is to replace all prior versions.

1. (Previously presented) A gland plate comprising a rigid, disk-shaped element comprising at least one radially extending wall having a thickness of from about 0.1 to 4mm.
2. (Original) A gland plate according to claim 1 wherein said element comprises two axially spaced, radially extending walls.
3. (Previously presented) A gland plate according to claim 2 wherein said element further comprises inner and outer circumferential walls extending between said radially extending walls.
4. (Previously presented) A gland plate according to claim 3 wherein said element is a hollow structure.
5. (Previously presented) A gland plate according to claim 3 wherein said element is filled with concrete, plastics or water.
6. (Previously presented) A gland plate according to claim 1 wherein said at least one wall is made of metal.
7. (Previously presented) A gland plate according to claim 6 wherein said at least one wall is formed by a pressing operation.
8. (Previously presented) A gland plate according to claim 1, further comprising: a first part providing a first radially extending wall and a second part providing a second radially extending wall, said first radially extending wall being axially spaced from said second radially extending wall.
9. (Original) A gland plate according to claim 8 wherein said first and second parts together provide inner and outer circumferential walls.

10. (Previously presented) A gland plate according to claim 1 wherein the gland plate is provided with one or more through holes.

11. (Previously presented) A gland plate according to claim 10 wherein each of said through holes is formed by a pressing or punching operation.

12. (Previously presented) A gland plate according to claim 11 wherein material displaced when each of said holes is being formed provides a strengthening support around said hole.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) A sealing arrangement, comprising:
a gland plate comprising a rigid, disk-shaped element comprising at least one radially extending wall having a thickness of from about 0.1 to 4mm.

15. (Previously presented) A mechanical seal, comprising:
a gland plate comprising a rigid, disk-shaped element comprising at least one radially extending wall having a thickness of from about 0.1 to 4mm.